

REMARKS

In the final Office Action mailed August 8, 2003, the Examiner rejected pending Claims 1-17 as being obvious in view of the Harris reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,339,362), the Kirson et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,114,970), the Haubner reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,559,499), the Kadnier reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,520) or some combination thereof. By this paper, the Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 9 so as to distinguish the art of record. Hence, reconsideration of the above-captioned application in light of the amendments and remarks contained herein is now respectfully requested.

The Applicant would initially thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy of an interview on October 21, 2003 to Applicant's representatives, Michael Trenholm and James Chang. During the course of the interview, a proposed amendment to the claims emphasizing that the interface device is translating signals from a first format suitable for the original stereo equipment into a second format suitable for the replacement stereo was submitted. As indicated in the Interview Summary, the Examiner indicated that submitting new claims would result in the Examiner doing a new search and responding to the new limitations in the next action.

By this paper, the Applicant has amended Claims 1 and 9 to incorporate limitations similar to those limitations that were discussed with the Examiner during the interview. In particular, the Applicant has amended Claim 1 and Claim 9 to emphasize that the interface device in this particular application receives signals from the original stereo control equipment positioned within the vehicle and then translates the signals from this first format into a second format, different than the first format, which is suitable for controlling the aftermarket replacement stereo. In one particular embodiment, the original stereo control could comprise a steering wheel control that provides output signals to the original equipment stereo via a hard-wired format. In this particular embodiment, the interface device would receive these hard-wired signals and then translate them into, for example, a wireless signal for transmission to a replacement stereo that is adapted to receive controls in this second format.

After carefully reviewing each of the references cited by the Examiner, the Applicant notes that none of these references disclose this concept of receiving an original format or first format signal and then translating it into a replacement format or second format signal such that an original control within the vehicle can be used to control a new replacement stereo. In

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particular, each of the references cited by the Examiner simply utilize the existing format of signals contained within the vehicle. As such, the Applicant believes that Claims 1 and 9 present subject matter which is neither disclosed nor taught by the cited references. The Applicant further believes that the remaining claims define additional patentable subject matter and believes that the application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any impediment to the prompt allowance of the application that could be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the number shown below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 2/9/08

By: 
Michael H. Trenholm
Registration No. 37,743
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(909) 781-9231

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